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fully ignorant and culpably careless in making said statement in the Hongkong and Shanghai papers.

I will be obliged to you if you will take the trouble to correct the statement in the paper that first published said item.

I have just now consulted our port physicians, and they state that they know of no cases at present anywhere in this locality.

Yours, truly,

SAMUEL L. GRACEY, *Consul*.

Passed Asst. Surg. M. J. WHITE,
Hongkong.

NOTE.—Service representatives at Manila and Shanghai were notified of this correction by Passed Assistant Surgeon White.

Reports from Shanghai—Smallpox—Beriberi near Nanking—Cholera.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Ransome reports, July 26 and August 2, as follows:

During the week ended July 23, 1904, there were issued 2 supplemental bills of health, and 2 vessels, 106 crew, and 3 steerage passengers were inspected. Two cases of illness were investigated on board ship, neither of which proved to be quarantinable. They were inspected and passed 6 pieces of baggage, and 12 pieces were disinfected. Manifests were viséed for 34,279 pieces of freight.

The municipal health officer reports for the week, smallpox, 1 case, 4 deaths; diphtheria, 2 deaths; tuberculosis, 34 deaths. The total mortality was 4 foreigners and 151 natives.

No quarantinable disease was reported from outports, although beriberi still prevails among soldiers in the vicinity of Nanking.

During the week ended July 30, 1904, there were issued 1 original and 1 supplemental bill of health, and 2 vessels, 513 crew, 89 cabin and 299 steerage passengers were inspected; also 1 piece of freight and 62 pieces of baggage. Two cases of illness on board vessels were investigated, neither of which proved quarantinable disease. Manifests were viséed for 7,794 pieces of freight. One immigrant was examined and passed.

The weekly report of the municipal health officer shows smallpox 2 deaths, cholera 1 case, enteric fever 3 cases, diphtheria 2 deaths, scarlet fever 2 cases, tuberculosis 26 deaths. The total reported mortality was 6 foreigners and 130 natives.

It will be observed that cholera has again made its appearance here. The case reported was a foreigner—a native of Portugal—and is said to have been of the vagrant class, although the man was removed from a respectable section of the European settlement to the hospital where he died.

It has been impossible to learn definitely through any source of the existence of cholera in Shanghai and its environs up to the present time this season, and as the general mortality seems to be at present even slightly below the normal, it is thought that this is at least one of the early cases. The fruit season is now well under way, and this is usually the signal for the appearance of the disease. Especially is this the case with the advent of the melons, which are cut into small portions and exposed for sale, covered frequently with swarms of flies. This fruit is a favorite delicacy with the Chinese coolie class.

There were no quarantinable diseases reported from outports.